

# Karachi Rotarian

The monthly e-newsletter of the Rotary Club of Karachi



## WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

February 20



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## EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

Welcome to reading the first issue of the new calendar year!

In this quite 'happening' issue of Karachi Rotarian, we are of course covering our usual segments, like write-ups on our weekly meetings, and including reporting on other important happenings in the month.

The regular reporting on weekly meetings is especially useful for those members who could not attend any of the meetings for whatever reason. And for those who did attend the meetings, the write ups will serve to recall the proceedings of the meetings, and more importantly, the key points or learning from each speaker's talk. And in January we had at least 2 very highly qualified and powerful speakers in Dr. Karim DaMJO, Dean of Aga Khan Medical College, and Dr. Amjad Saqib, Founder Chairman of Akhuwat Foundation. These larger-than-life individuals had a wealth of knowledge and insights to share with us.

And for the first time, we are including in this Issue an interesting infographic about our members and their occupations or professions. Good to know that our members come from diverse professional backgrounds, adding a range of perspectives, and more value to the Club and its activities. I am sure you will find this infographic quite insightful.

In this Issue we are also paying tribute to the founder of Rotary, Paul Percy Harris, whose death anniversary was in January, while introducing our members to the Rotary International President-elect, who will be taking over in July 2026. And then in the District 3271 news, we are sharing the full agenda of this annual flagship conference of our District. Those of our members who did attend the conference speak highly of all the proceedings, the energy that was present and the overall bonhomie. Those who missed it, well, you can just make sure you make it to the next District Conference, which will be held under the Presidentship of our very own Shahzad Sabir! As you know he will be taking over as District 3271 President in July 2026.

With my best wishes to all,



Zohare Ali Shariff  
Editor, Karachi Rotarian,  
Honorary Secretary RCK, 2025-2026

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Rotarians,

The Rotary International President Elect, Olayinka Hakeem Babalola, has announced the Presidential Message at the International Assembly in Orlando: "CREATE LASTING CHANGE". He wants us to focus on Impact and not just outcomes.

The Rotary Club of Karachi, has over the years pursued projects that had sustainability as the prime criteria, where the club focused its resources on projects with maximum outreach and impact.

RCK projects such as polio eradication, mental health, water filtration, artificial limbs, blood donation and breast cancer awareness, have positively impacted people in both urban and rural areas, covering educated, illiterate, poor, middle income and well-to-do segments of society. Millions of people have benefitted from these programmes, without discrimination of any sort.

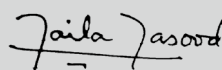
In my tenure, I have similarly focused on projects with high impact such as Drug Awareness Programme, Environment Vision 2050, and the Microfinance programme.

In the coming six months, my team and I intend to focus on vocational training for women, employment generation for youth and polytechnic education for the less-privileged.

All these programmes focus on sustainability and impact at a high level, while ensuring maximum outreach.

These programmes in their impact and outreach encompass, health, environment, education and employment, which will come full circle, affecting the entire spectrum of human well-being. These schemes are reassuring and we can say with full confidence that "Together we can create lasting impact"

Yours sincerely,



Naila Masood  
President RCK, 2025-2026

# ROTARY INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## Olayinka Hakeem Babalola selected to be 2026-27 Rotary International president



Olayinka Hakeem Babalola, a member of the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Nigeria, has been selected by the Board of Directors to become Rotary International's president for 2026-27. His term will begin on 1 July 2026. He was selected to be the organization's leader after RI President-elect SangKoo Yun resigned to focus on his recovery from recent cancer treatment.

Babalola began his Rotary journey in 1984 as a Rotaractor. He joined the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi 10 years later. His leadership roles include serving as district governor (2011-12), RI vice president (2019-20), and member of the RI Board (2018-20). He was also an active leader and participant in RI committees such as the End Polio Now Countdown to History Campaign Committee (2017-23) and the Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee (2013-present, adviser 2016-present).

Babalola holds a university degree in engineering in 1988, and worked for 25 years in the oil and gas industry, holding senior positions in Shell PLC.

He is the founder of two companies: Riviera Technical Services Ltd., an oil and gas infrastructure delivery company, and Lead and Change Consulting, an executive coaching and organizational performance advisory group.

Babalola and his wife, Preba, live in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. He supports The Rotary Foundation with a named endowment and as an Arch Klumph Society member. He is a recipient of the Africa Centennial Heroes Award, the Regional Service Award for a Polio-Free World, the RI Service Above Self Award, and The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service.

Speaking at the opening general session of Rotary's International Assembly on January 12, 2026, 2026-27 President-elect Olayinka H. Babalola introduced the 2026-27 presidential message - CREATE LASTING IMPACT. "As members of Rotary, we share a vision of a better future," he said. "To make this vision a reality, we must acknowledge and unleash the change within ourselves."

# IN MEMORIAM OF PAUL HARRIS

In the month of January, we also observe the death anniversary of Paul Percy Harris, the founder of Rotary, who passed away on the 27th of January, 1947.

What he started was not just an organization, but a movement, which has gone on to become a global phenomenon, growing from strength to strength.

For the information of our members, Karachi Rotarian is sharing this profile of Rotary's founder.



Paul Percy Harris was a Chicago based attorney, born in Racine, Wisconsin. At age 3, when his family fell on hard times, Paul was moved with a sibling to Vermont to live with his paternal grandparents. After secondary school, he attended the University of Vermont and then went on to Princeton University.

On the death of his grandfather in 1888, he did not return to university, and soon moved to Des Moines, Iowa, to apprentice at a local law firm. After completing his apprenticeship, he studied law at the University of Iowa, and graduated with a Bachelor of Laws in June 1891. However, for the next five years, he worked odd jobs. In 1896, Harris moved to Chicago where he lived the rest of his life.

Harris began his law practice in 1896 in Chicago's main business district and remained active in this practice for the next forty years. At this time he also began considering the benefits of forming a social organization for local professionals. In 1905, Harris organized the first Rotary Club, "in fellowship and friendship", with three clients and local businessmen, Silvester Schele, Gustavus Loehr, and Hiram Shorey. His initial goal was solely to create a club of professional and business men for friendship and fellowship. Soon, Harris realized that Rotary needed a greater purpose.

When he was elected as third president of the Chicago Rotary Club in 1907, the club initiated its first public service project, the construction of public toilets in Chicago. This step transformed Rotary into the world's first Service Club. This action was facilitated by the formation of the Executive Committee (now Ways and Means Committee). The Committee was open to all members and their noon meetings began the tradition of club luncheon meetings.

Harris had great ambitions for Rotary's growth, and very early in the organization's history new clubs were started, all over the US and in Europe. By 1910, at least 15 new clubs had begun in major cities. That August, the existing 16 Rotary Clubs held a national convention in Chicago. There they unanimously chose to unify as the National Association of Rotary Clubs. Eventually, the organization became the International Association of Rotary Clubs, helping to realize Harris's dream worldwide. Through his work with the Rotary Club, Harris received awards from numerous national governments.

In July 1910 in Chicago, that Harris married Jean Thomson, a Scotswoman whom he had met at a local nature club. Jean traveled the world with Harris in support of Rotary. She helped to make women an important part of Rotary, eventually leading to all Rotary Clubs admitting women as full members.

In early 1946, while vacationing with his wife in Alabama, Harris grew ill. He returned to Beverly, Illinois, but never recovered fully. He died on 27th January 1947 aged 78. By the time of Harris's death, Rotary International had grown to more than 200,000 members in 75 countries. As of 2022, there are about 1.4 million members worldwide.

**In Memory of**  
**Paul Percy Harris**  
— 27th January —

Paul Percy Harris, the founder of Rotary International and a visionary of global humanitarian fellowship, passed away on January 27, 1947. His dedication to service, goodwill, and international understanding laid the foundation for what Rotary represents today.

We remember him with deep respect, honor, and gratitude for his timeless legacy.

Rotary – Service Above Self

Rotary



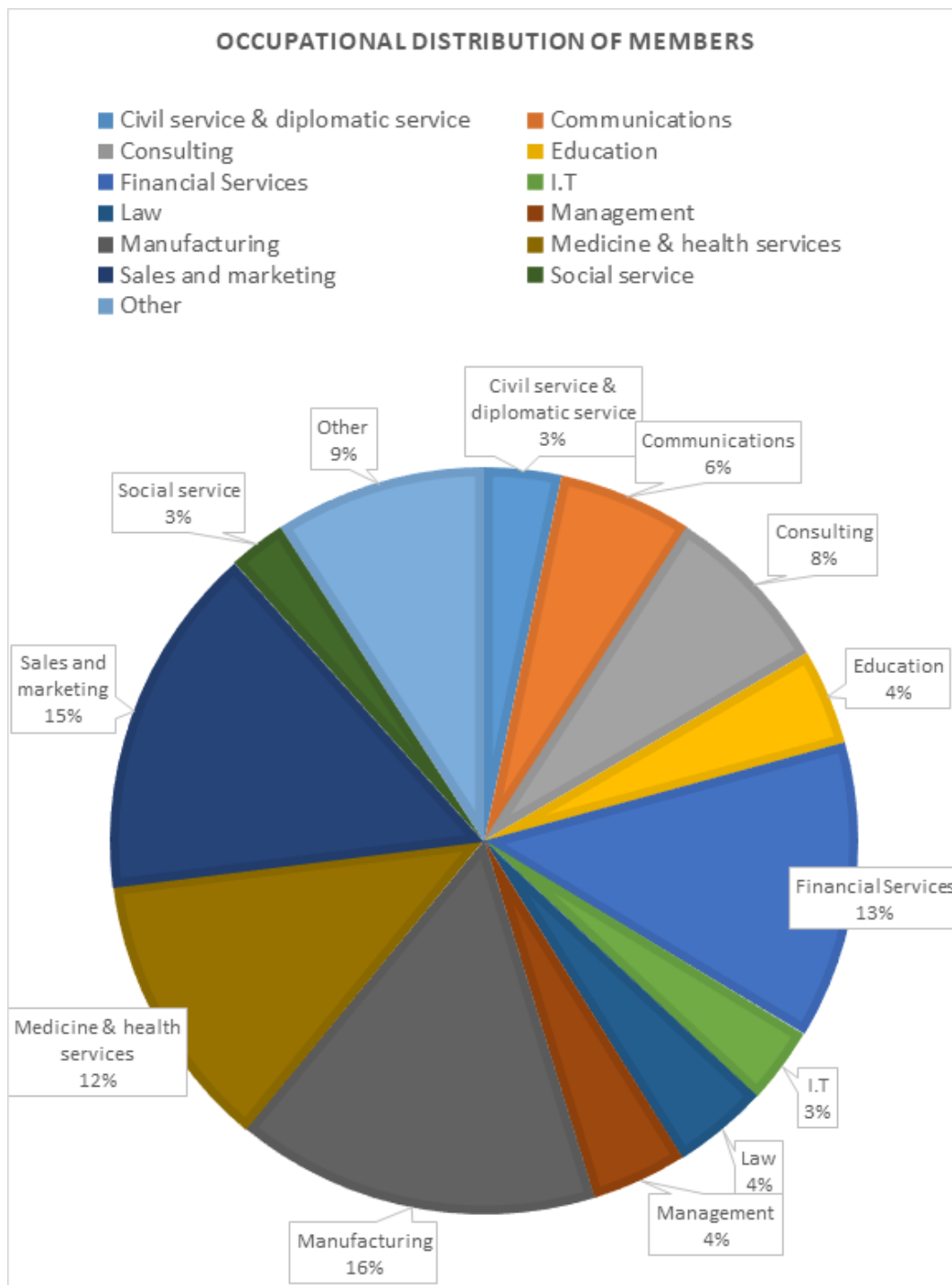
# کیا مشغلہ ہے آپ کا؟

This is a question people meeting someone for the first time typically ask. So Karachi Rotarian took a cue from this and decided to explore the 'mashghala' of its members. Presenting our findings below!

## PROFESSIONAL FIELDS OF RCK MEMBERS

When Chicago Attorney Paul Harris formed the Rotary Club of Chicago on February 23, 1905, his vision was to gather professionals with diverse backgrounds, who could exchange ideas and form meaningful, lifelong friendships. Over time, Rotary's reach and vision gradually extended to humanitarian service.

In this original spirit of Rotary, the members of the Rotary Club of Karachi also come from diverse professional backgrounds. This diversity adds enhanced creativity and innovation, improved problem-solving and decision-making, and a broader range of skills. This variety of perspectives helps the club better understand its community and tackle complex challenges.



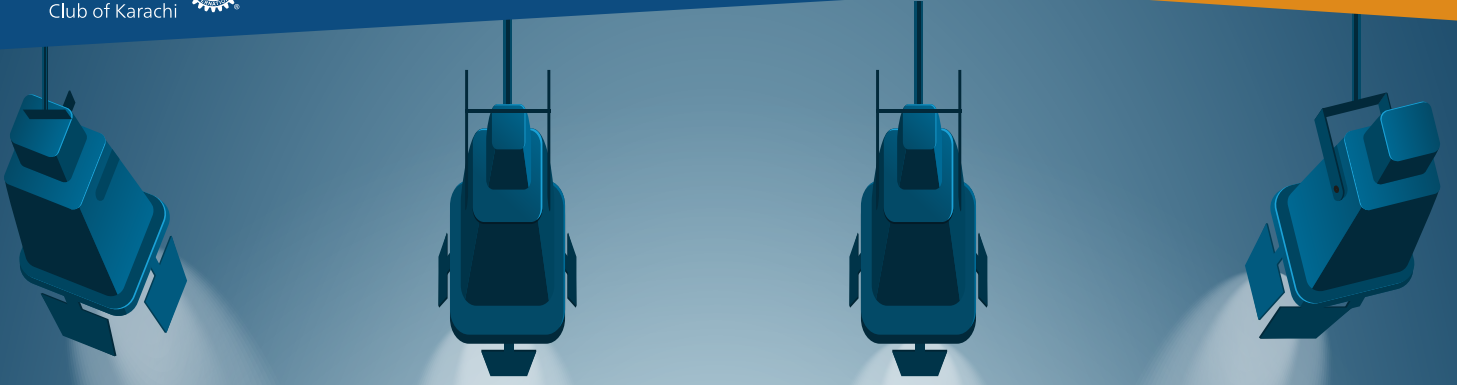
Here we present to you an analysis of our members' occupation or professional fields, categorized into 12 broad categories. And within some categories are sub-categories which can be classified within the broad main category. Where this has been done, the explanation has been given in the footnotes below the table.

S.#	OCCUPATION / PROFESSION	NUMBER OF MEMBERS	PERCENTAGE
01	Civil service & diplomatic service	8	3%
02	Communications <sup>1</sup>	14	6%
03	Consulting	18	8%
04	Education	10	4%
05	Financial services <sup>2</sup>	31	13%
06	I.T.	8	3%
07	Law	10	4%
08	Management	10	4%
09	Manufacturing	38	16%
10	Medicine & health services	29	12%
11	Sales and marketing	37	15%
12	Social service	6	3%
	Others <sup>3</sup>	22	9%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>100%</b>

**01** Communications category include advertising, public relations, journalists / medias, telecommunications, production of communication & entertainment content.

**02** Financial services include accountancy, actuarial services, asset management, auditing, banking, fintech, insurance, investment & wealth management, stock brokerage.

**03** Others include various other categories in which there are 5 or less than 5 members in any one of the categories included in Others. These categories include architecture interior design, construction & real estate, farming, flower decorations, printing, spouse members & warehousing.



# ROUNDUP

## WEEKLY MEETINGS

JANUARY - 2026

● **Week - 01**

January 06, 2026

**Durdana Ansari, OBE**

Honorary President of Royal Air Force Cadets

● **Week - 02**

January 13, 2026

**Dr. Karim F. Damji**

Dean of Aga Khan University, Medical College

● **Week - 03**

January 20, 2026

**Dr. Amjad Saqib**

Founder Chairman, Akhuwat

● **Week - 04**

January 27, 2026

**Syed Bilal Khalid**

Founder of Parabellum- Agy

# Durdana Ansari, OBE

Honorary President of Royal Air Force Cadets



Meeting #	:	25 of 2025-2026
Date	:	Tuesday, January 06, 2026
Topic	:	Speak like a professional broadcaster
Participants	:	74

A motivational speaker and trainer, Durdana Ansari joined the BBC as a Presenter in 1985, where she remained for 2 decades, moving from BBC Urdu to the World Service's English-language programmes, Meridian, Outlook and eventually The World Today.

In 2006, she was invited to lead a charity project in the UK to educate British Asian Muslim women. The project

has engaged more than 9,000 women from marginalized backgrounds, teaching them English lessons and IT skills and offering cultural activities. She received an OBE from the Late Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II for her contribution to this work. On 1st April 2019 she was appointed as Lt Commander and in July 2021 she was promoted to act as an Honorary Captain for the Royal Navy.

## Meeting Proceedings

- Invocation followed by the National Anthem.
- Guests to the meeting welcomed.
- Announcement made of New Year gifts package for all members, sponsored by President Elect 2027-2028, Rasheed Jan Mohsammad, PP Anjum Nisar and Rtn. Aslam Allahwala. All sponsors thanked.
- Birthday greetings: Rtn. Ravi Kumar (Dec.28), PP Anjum Nisar, Rtn. Farooq Afzal, Rtn. Syed Mohd. Atif, Rtn. Muhammad Nasir Khan & Rtn. Abdul Nabi Memon (Jan.01) & Rtn. Obaid Fatteh & Rtn. Azhar Shaikh (Jan. 04).
- Wedding anniversaries: Rtn. Asher Ali & Rtn. Arjumand Qazi (Dec.28). Rtn. Abbas Shabbir Marvi (Dec. 29), Rtn. Dr Wajiha, Rtn. Mohammad Ali & Rtn. Humayun Qureshi (Dec. 30) & PP. Kazi Asad Abid (Jan. 04).
- Project updates: 28 new mental health patients (total 3,645); 750 dialysis treatments; 87 artificial limb patients served; monthly art therapy session held for amputee children.
- Certificate of Appreciation presented to PC staffer, Shazia Nousheen, who was missed out

- earlier when certificates were presented to other PC staff associated with our weekly lunches.
- Guest Speaker, Ms. Durdana Ansari, OBE, invited to the head table.
- President introduced the guest speaker, who spoke on "Speak like a professional broadcaster."
- Presentation of memento to the speaker.
- Sunshine Collection: Rs. 100,430 so far; today's collection Rs. 1,350; total Rs. 101,780.

## Key Insights from the Talk

Ms. Ansari spoke about her life and shared the lessons she has learnt from different experiences. She emphasized how success is the result of determination, being hold and taking chances. Her over 2 decades experience of working in BBC taught her many things, including how to deal with different people, how to handle different circumstances, and especially how to cope with crises.



# Dr. Karim F. Damji

Dean of Aga Khan University, Medical College

Meeting #	:	26 of 2025-2026
Date	:	Tuesday, January 13, 2026
Topic	:	AKU Medical College: Innovation and Impact
Participants	:	65



Dr. Damji completed medical school at the University of British Columbia, residency in Ophthalmology at the University of Ottawa, a clinical fellowship in Glaucoma at Duke University, and an Executive MBA from Queen's University.

He was at the University of Ottawa as a glaucoma specialist and clinical scientist, and then moved to the University of Alberta where he was Professor. He was appointed Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Alberta, where he is also professor emeritus. Dr. Damji also served as President of the Canadian Glaucoma Society and President of the Canadian Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology.

Dr Damji's research is focused on stem cell therapy for glaucoma, use of technology to improve access for eye care, benefits of microinvasive glaucoma surgery, and a 'sandwich' training model to develop glaucoma subspecialists and leaders in Sub Saharan Africa.

He has authored over 190 peer-reviewed publications and is senior editor for the Shields Textbook of Glaucoma. He has received awards for excellence in teaching, research, humanism and global health, including the 2017 University of British Columbia Alumni Global Citizenship Award. Meeting Proceedings.

## Meeting Proceedings

- Invocation followed by condolences extended to 3 members on the loss of family members.
- National Anthem.
- Guests to the meeting welcomed.
- Birthday greetings: President Naila Masood (Jan. 07). Rtn. Asma Zeeshan (Jan.12) & Rtn. Farhad Karamally (Jan.13)
- Wedding anniversaries: Rtn. Jawaid ul Haq Siddiqui (Jan. 07), PP. Syed Iqbaluddin Ghazi (Jan.09) & Rtn. Gohar Manzoor (Jan.13)
- Project updates: 32 new mental health patients (total 3,677); 730 dialysis treatments; 66 artificial limb patients served.
- Trustee Aziz Memon spoke briefly on RI's theme for Rotary Year 2026-2027 and about RI's President Elect for 2026-2027, Olayinka Hakeem Babalola.
- Guest Speaker, Dr. Karim Damji invited to the head table and introduced by the President.
- Dr. Damji gave presentation on AKU Medical College: Innovation and Impact.
- Presentation of memento to the speaker.
- Sunshine Collection: Rs. 108,780 so far; today's collection Rs. 2,700; total Rs. 111,480.

## Key Insights from the Talk

- AKU's Core principles – IQRA, which is taken to mean: Impact, Quality, Relevance, Access
- The medical college is ranked #1 medical university by Pakistan Medical and Dental Council, 2019. And ranked among top 100 universities for clinical medicine, and among the top 100 for public health in Shanghai Ranking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2019. Also, first and only in South Asia to receive ACGME-I Accreditation.
- Responsible for 80% of all biomedical research in Pakistan.
- Innovations in Education: Competency based learning, Longitudinal themes in MBBS – humanities, ethics, leadership, New graduate programs, Allied health programs.
- Graduate programs: Masters in: Philosophy in Biological and Biomedical Sciences (MPhil-BBS), Health Policy and Management (MHPM), Science in Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Sciences in Public Health, Health Professional Education, Bioethics, Early Child Development, Science in Health Data Sciences, Science in Health Care Management, Doctor of Philosophy in Health Sciences (PhD – HS)



# Dr. Amjad Saqib

Founder Chairman, Akhuwat

Meeting #	:	27 of 2025-2026
Date	:	Tuesday, January 20, 2026a
Topic	:	Poverty and how can society contribute towards its eradication - Akhuwat model
Participants	:	74



Dr. Amjad Saqib is the founder Chairman of Akhuwat Foundation, the world's largest interest-free microfinance program in the world, which has disbursed over Rs. 382 billion to around 4 million poor families in Pakistan so far, and who launched Pakistan's first fee-free higher education institution, the Akhuwat College, soon to become a university.

He is also the Chairman of Punjab Development Network (PDN), the Executive Director, Fountain House, a 500-bedded institute for treatment and rehabilitation of mentally challenged people, and the Chairman of the Punjab Educational Endowment Fund.

Dr. Saqib has received world-wide recognition, including the Ramon Magsaysay Award 2021 (popularly known as Asia's Nobel Prize), the Islamic Economy Award, the Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award for 2018, by the World Economic Forum (WEF), the Schwab Foundation and Commonwealth's 31st Point of Light Award, by Queen Elizabeth II in 2018, Lifetime Achievement Award, by Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank and Thomson Reuters, Rotary International's Lifetime Achievement Award, Sitara-a-Imtiaz and Hilal-a-Imtiaz.

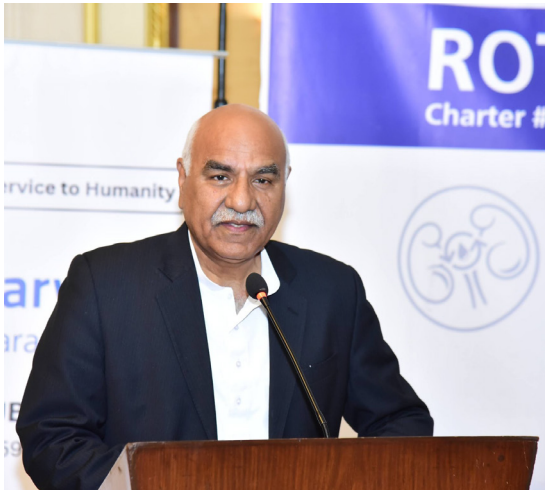
He has authored 10 books, and is an acclaimed speaker, who has spoken at the UN, Harvard, Oxford and Cambridge universities, and many other prestigious institutions throughout the world.

## Meeting Proceedings

- Invocation followed by National Anthem.
- Guests to the meeting welcomed.
- Birthday greetings: Rtn. Najmus Saqib & Rtn. Rehan Shahid – Jan. 22
- Wedding anniversaries: Rtn. Zubair Farooqui & Rtn. Sadiq Rajani – Jan. 22, Rtn. Altaf Madraswala Jan.23, Rtn. Rizwan Ihsan, Jan. 25
- Project updates: 28 new mental health patients (total 3,699); 750 dialysis treatments; 62 artificial limb patients served.
- Trustee Aziz Memon spoke briefly, introducing Dr. Saqib.
- Guest Speaker, Dr. Amjad Saqib invited to the head table and introduced by the President.
- Dr. Saqib gave an inspiring extempore talk on poverty, and how society can contribute towards its eradication, ending with describing the Akhuwat model
- Presentation of memento to the speaker.
- Sunshine Collection: Rs. 111,480 so far; today's collection Rs. 1,700; total Rs. 113,180.

## Key Insights from the Talk

- Poverty is not just an economics story. It is also a political and social issue
- Sign of a big man is that no one in his presence should feel small
- Quoting Ashfaq Ahmed, Dr. Saqib said, 'If you are rich but have no friends, this is also poverty'
- Biggest manifestation of poverty is when you have even no hope left
- For poverty alleviation, the first question should be, what you as an individual can do
- Quoting Helen Keller, Dr. Saqib said, 'worse than not having sight is having sight but no vision'
- Don't wait for a messiah to end poverty. Begin the process by changing yourself and seeing what you can do.



# Syed Bilal Khalid

Founder of Parabellum- Agy



Meeting # : 28 of 2025-2026  
 Date : Tuesday, January 27, 2025  
 Topic : It's all in the Journey, Not the destination!  
 Participants : 62

Syed Bilal Khalid is a business consultant, counselor, and motivational speaker who blends strategic business expertise with empathetic, purpose-driven leadership. He advises CEOs on strategic outsourcing models while also mentoring individuals to recognize and develop their potential, drawing deeply from his own life journey. Born with congenital amputation that resulted in underdeveloped limbs, he learned early to navigate an able-bodied world through prosthetic support,

adaptive methods, and strong self-acceptance. Despite physical challenges, social scrutiny, and periods of self-doubt, he built a path defined by resilience and determination. Today, he advocates a "differently-abled" mindset centered on strength and adaptability, and through his talks and personal engagement, inspires audiences to rethink limitations, embrace inclusion, and pursue purposeful growth.

## Meeting Proceedings

- Invocation by Rtn. Abdullah Feroz, followed by the National Anthem.
- Condolences offered on the passing of esteemed club member Mrs. Tanveer Malik (Jan 21, 2026); Rtn. Shumaila Omar shared remarks in her memory.
- Guests welcomed to the meeting.
- Project updates: 58 artificial limb patients served; 32 new mental health patients (total 3,728); 700 dialysis treatments provided.
- Announcements: Rotary SmartCon 2026 scheduled for Jan 30–31 in Hyderabad (50 RCK members registered); Valentine’s Cruise Fellowship announced for Feb 14; Ramadan ration drive planned with SGS for Gul Plaza–affected employees.
- Guest Speaker, Mr. Syed Bilal Khalid, Founder of Parabellum-AGY, invited to the head table.
- President introduced the speaker, who spoke on "It's All in the Journey, Not the Destination."
- Presentation of memento to the guest speaker by DGE Shahzad Sabir, PP Mohammad Ovais, PP Navin Merchant, and PP Abbas Lavingia.
- Sunshine Collection: Rs. 113,180 so far; today's collection Rs. 1,100; total Rs. 114,280.

## Key Insights from the Talk

1. I was born with a congenital disorder, without the right leg, and some fingers missing both on a hand and a foot. But very early I decided this was a challenge I had to overcome
2. As I went through life, I decided that my mission in life will be to become a source of encouragement for disabled persons
3. You have to distinguish between being differently-abled and being disabled.
4. If you are differently-abled, you must learn how to push boundaries and adapt and not consider your case as hopeless

# WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

February 20



Each year on 20th February, the world observes the World Day of Social Justice, a moment not of ceremony alone, but of sober reflection and renewed responsibility. The UN General Assembly established this Day in November 2007 and it has been observed annually. Its creation reflected a growing global consensus that peace, security, and sustainable development are unattainable without justice, and that justice itself cannot exist in the absence of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The intellectual and institutional foundations of this observance are closely tied to the work of the International Labour Organization (ILO). In June 2008, the ILO unanimously adopted the Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, which placed the Decent Work Agenda at the heart of global efforts to align economic growth with social equity. It acknowledged that while globalization and technological advances have created unprecedented opportunities, they have also deepened inequalities, exclusion, and vulnerability across societies.

At its core, social justice is neither a slogan nor a narrow economic doctrine. It is the principle that all people, without discrimination, should have equal rights and genuine opportunities to benefit from economic and social progress. As articulated within the UN framework, social justice encompasses dignity, freedom of expression, autonomy, and the fair distribution of opportunity. It seeks to remedy not only material deprivation but also unequal rules, discriminatory structures, and imbalanced power relations that perpetuate injustice.

The relevance of this agenda is reinforced by the realities of the present era. The UN has emphasized that social development and social justice are indispensable to peace and security, within and among nations, and that neither can be achieved in isolation from human rights protections. The World Day of Social Justice therefore functions as both a moral compass and a policy platform, urging collective action to eradicate poverty, promote full employment and decent work, advance universal social protection, and close widening social and economic divides.

This global commitment is closely aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The observance directly supports SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities). Each of these goals underscores the indivisibility of justice from development: poverty eradication cannot occur without equitable opportunity; economic growth is unsustainable without dignified work; and social cohesion cannot be sustained amid widening inequality.

Within this global architecture, Rotary occupies a distinctive and consequential role. Rotary International approaches social justice not as an abstract ideal, but as a practical responsibility embedded in action. Through its four complementary roles—as practitioners, educators, mediators, and advocates - Rotary advances peace and inclusion across multiple domains. Rotary's Peace Centers, which have trained more than 1,800 peace fellows, exemplify its educational mandate, while its mediation efforts in conflict zones have enabled humanitarian ceasefires for polio vaccination campaigns. At the community level, Rotary's work in disease prevention, clean water and sanitation, maternal and child health, education, economic development, and environmental protection directly addresses the structural roots of injustice. From supporting WASH programs to expanding access to health care for underserved populations, Rotary's interventions reflect a commitment to long-term, locally anchored change rather than episodic charity.

As we observe the World Day of Social Justice, the imperative before institutions is strategic and ethical. The pursuit of justice demands more than goodwill; it requires coherent policy, inclusive governance, and sustained investment in human potential. For Rotary and its members, this day is not merely an occasion to reaffirm values, but an invitation to deepen impact, locally and globally, through disciplined service and principled advocacy. In a world marked by profound interdependence, social justice is not an optional aspiration; it is the essential architecture of a stable and humane future.



# District 3271 News



## District Conference Report



Submitted by Rtn. Shafqat Ali, Assistant Governor 2025-2026

SMARTCON-2026, the District Conference of Rotary District 3271, was successfully held from January 30 to February 1, 2026, at The Marquee by Kababjees, Hyderabad, Sindh, under the theme "Connecting People – Sustainable Lifestyle." The conference commenced on Day 1 with an efficient registration process and distribution of conference kits, featuring handmade Thari bags, promoting local craftsmanship and sustainability.

The opening ceremonies included recitation from the Holy Quran, national anthems, and inspiring addresses by district leadership and distinguished Rotary representatives. The Inaugural Session, attended by over 800 Rotarians and guests, set the tone for fellowship, service, and cultural harmony.

Highlights of the evening included the House of Friendship, interaction with national and international Rotary leaders, a lavish gala dinner, the official launch of IMPACTCON-2027 by DGE Shahzad Sabir, and a memorable musical night featuring Natasha Baig, fostering fellowship and celebration.

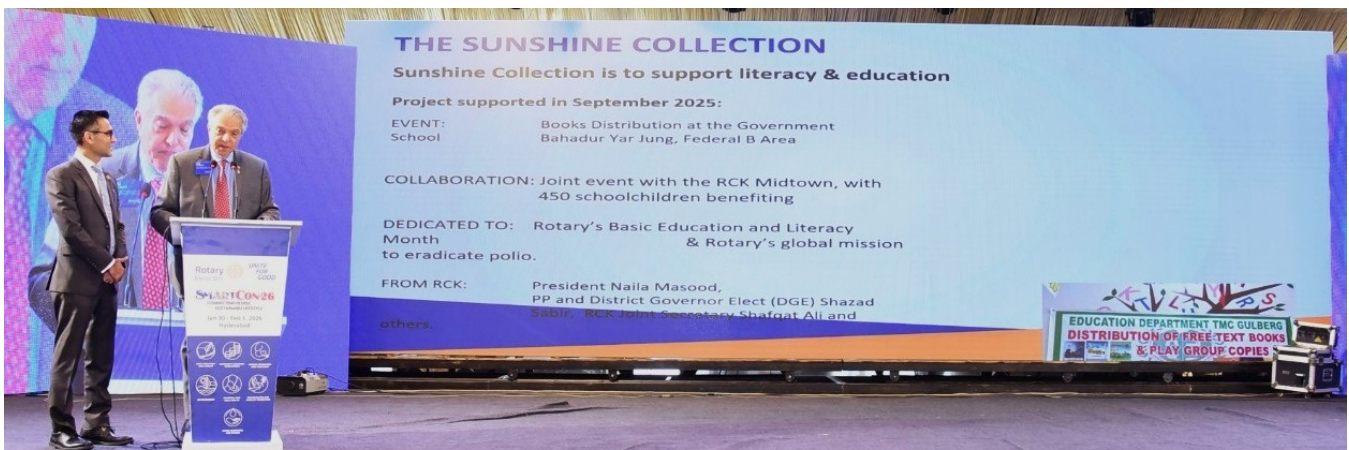
Day 2 was dedicated to Rotary in Action, knowledge sharing, and district governance. The day featured multiple plenary sessions covering critical areas such as education, health, environment, agriculture, technology, polio eradication, peace fellowship, and women empowerment, with insightful contributions from Pakistan's leading professionals and policymakers.

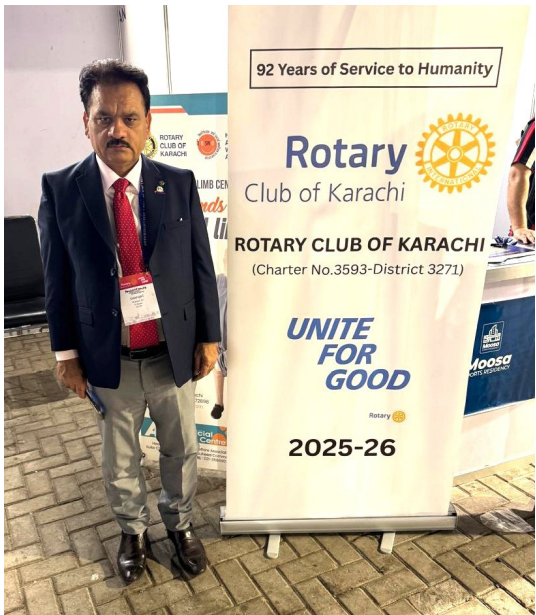
Club presentations showcased impactful service projects from across the district, reflecting Rotary's commitment to sustainable development. During the event, Past Trustee Aziz Memon presented the Rotary Club of Karachi's projects for the years 2025-2026.

District affairs sessions, expressions of gratitude, and networking opportunities were seamlessly integrated with cultural experiences, including traditional Sindhi lunch, hi-tea sessions, folk music, and live performances, creating a perfect balance of learning, service, and fellowship. Rtn. Jabbar Abdul Sheikh ran unopposed in the DGND elections.

The concluding Day 3 focused on community engagement and sustainable service, with Rotarians visiting Rotary Smart Village (Zafar Village), Mirpurkhas, for the inauguration of a new Smart Village initiative. The visit offered an enriching rural and cultural experience, complemented by a traditional Sunday brunch and Basant Festival celebrations. The day featured opening remarks by District Governor Shakil Kaim Khani and concluding remarks by RIPR Christine Etienne, who appreciated the vision, organization, and service impact of SMARTCON-2026.

The conference concluded with renewed inspiration, strengthened bonds of fellowship, and a shared commitment to advancing Rotary's mission of Service Above Self across communities.

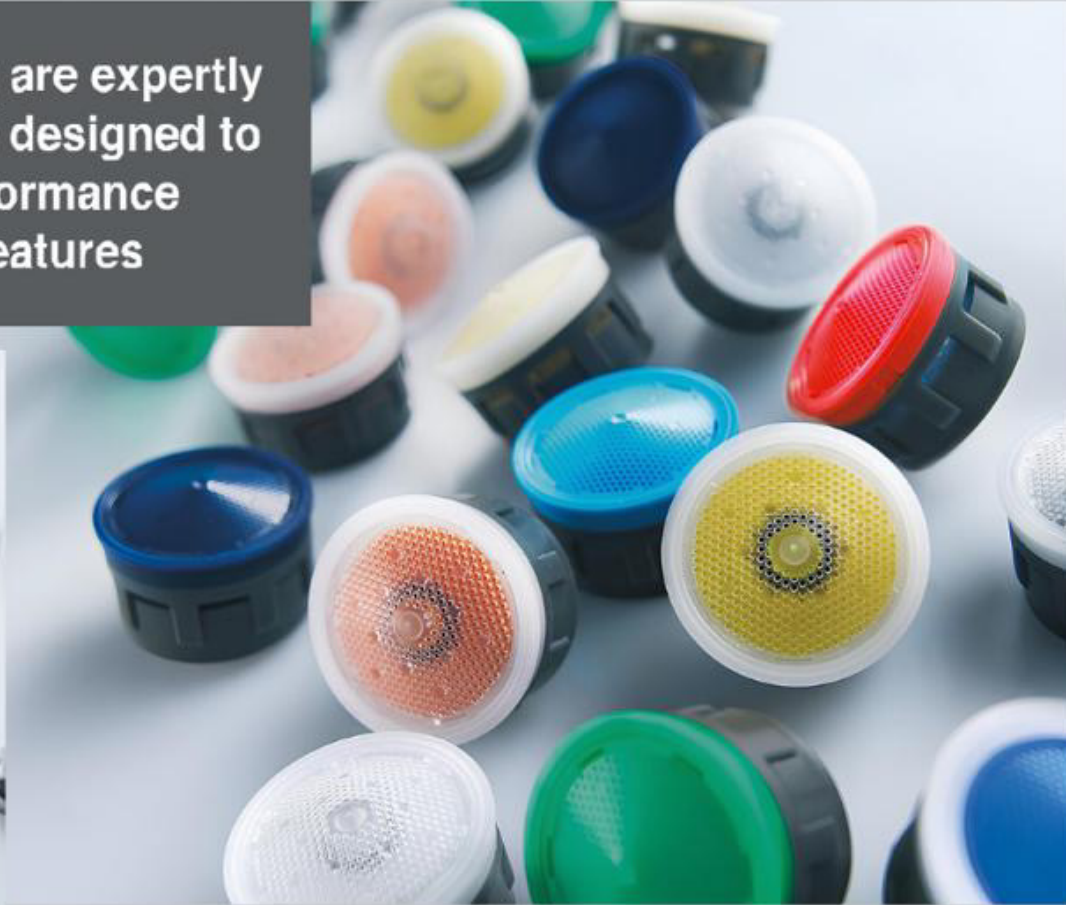




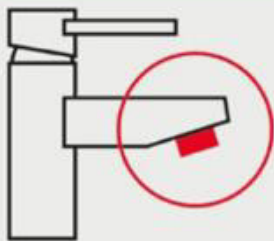
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